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2 EAST SIXTY-THIRD STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

August 1, 1959

Doctor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Doctor Lederberg,

Mrs. Eunice Thomas Miner, Executive Director of this Academy, has asked me to write to you about a project we have undertaken at the request of the Board of Education of the City of New York.

The Board has asked four organizations to assist it in improving the City's science education by making a study of the content of courses, the methods of teaching, the availability and suitability of equipment, the degree of use to which it is put, the competence of teachers, and other relevant factors; and then to make recommendations to the Board of Education.

The New York Academy of Sciences has been asked to study and evaluate the Biology course as outlined in the enclosed Curriculum Bulletin, 1956-57 Series, Number 10.

For your interest, the American Chemical Society is studying the Chemistry courses, the American Physical Society is evaluating the Physics courses, and the National Association of Manufacturers is reviewing Mathematics and other allied subjects.

Mrs. Miner is now taking a short, fully earned vacation. She asked me to tell you that she considers this an important opportunity to perform a valuable service for science by motivating and inspiring young men and women to continue their studies and perhaps achieve future advances in the Biological and Medical Sciences.

In an unstinting effort to assist, the Academy has decided on the following plan: first, it will develop a list of searching questions which will reveal the current status of biological teaching; second, it will dispatch teams consisting of two eminent biologists to visit a liberal sampling of the City's Public High Schools. These teams will gather information and make evaluations of the effectiveness of the Biology course as it is actually being conducted.

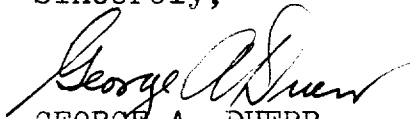
Third, the Academy will study the reports of the visiting biologists and render a report to the Board of Education. We hope that this will be implemented and will effect a material increase in the number of intelligent youngsters who will devote their careers to the field of Biology.

Along with the Curriculum Bulletin you will find a list of questions (two copies) designed to help the biologists who will visit the schools. This is merely a tentative list and we hope to improve it. The Academy, its Council, and Mrs. Miner, knowing your interest in the New York City schools, would be very grateful if you would give us the benefit of your ideas in developing a more effective list of questions. We ask, therefore, that you note your suggestions and recommendations on one of the enclosed check lists and return it to us at your early convenience.

Our final report will be submitted on or before 15 October so a prompt reply would be greatly appreciated. It will be most useful if we receive it some time this month.

Mrs. Miner feels that you can be of great assistance in this worthy effort and we are all looking forward to hearing from you. Let me thank you for helping in whatever way you think is appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George A. Duerr".

GEORGE A. DUERR
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret'd)
Public Relations Director